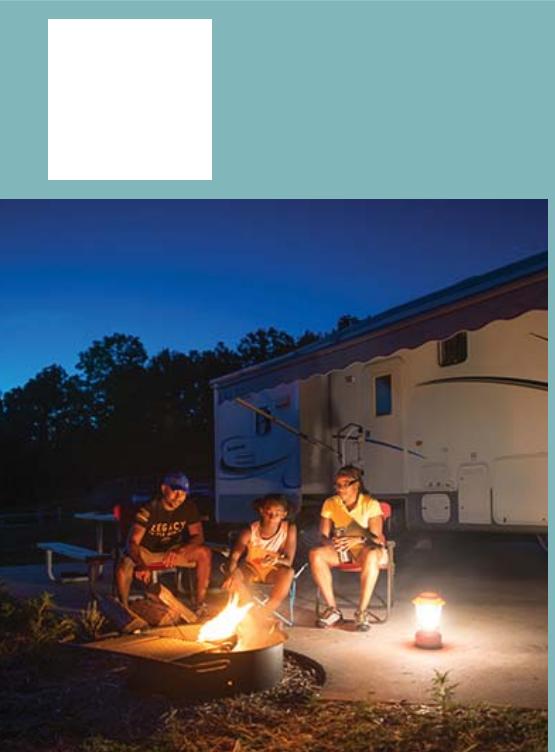




2016 ANNUAL REPORT



BY THE NUMBERS

NUTS AND BOLTS

160,325	ACRES
2,000	STRUCTURES
1,088	MILES OF TRAIL
3,709	CAMPSPACES



1,088	LODGING UNITS
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FUNDING

75%

APPROXIMATELY **75%** OF THE BUDGET TO OPERATE AND IMPROVE PARKS IS PROVIDED BY THE PARKS, SOILS AND WATER SALES TAX.

THE PARKS,
SOILS AND WATER
SALES TAX WAS RENEWED BY

80% OF VOTERS IN 2016.



ATTENDANCE AND REVENUE

ATTENDANCE

21
MILLION

REVENUE

\$13
MILLION



SPENDING THE NIGHT

87,453

RESERVATIONS FOR
CAMPING AND PARK
RUN LODGING

20%

INCREASE IN
RESERVATIONS

1.2 MILLION OVERNIGHT VISITORS

11%
INCREASE IN
CAMPING

26%
OF CAMPERS
WERE UNDER 18

EXPERIENCE NATURE AND HISTORY

1.9 MILLION INTERPRETIVE CONTACTS
52,114 PROGRAMS PRESENTED

STAYING CONNECTED



2 MILLION
VISITORS TO
MOSTATEPARKS.COM

MORE THAN
8,000
FOLLOWERS TO
@MOSTATEPARKS

28 FACEBOOK
PAGES MAINTAINED

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

484 SPYC
WORKERS

3,795 VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED
218,132 HOURS

Missouri State Parks Kicks Off Centennial Celebration

The park system kicked off 18 months of centennial celebrations on April 9, 2016 with the opening of a new exhibition at the



Missouri State Museum and the launch of a new statewide passport program. The park system was officially established on April 9, 1917 with the creation of the state park fund. The Centennial Passport is a program challenging guests to visit 88 state parks and historic sites between April 9, 2016 and Oct. 31, 2017. A printed passport is available for purchase at park and historic site gift shops and online. The first 1,000 individuals who complete the printed passport will receive a centennial backpack, made possible thanks to a sponsorship by Bass Pro Shops. A digital passport is also available and can be completed free of charge. For more information, visit mostateparks.com/passport.

47 Miles of Rail Trail Added

The Rock Island Spur of Katy Trail State Park opened in December. This 47.5-mile trail stretches through the heart of west-central Missouri. The trail provides an adventure for bicyclists, hikers and equestrian users who are seeking an avenue to enjoy nature, explore a part of rural Missouri history and have an enjoyable recreational opportunity.



The trail is built on the former corridor of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad (commonly called the Rock Island line). The trail takes users between

Windsor and Pleasant Hill, with additional trailheads at Leeton, Chilhowee and Medford along the way.

Senior Tram Tours on Katy Trail State Park

In an effort to encourage more senior citizens to experience Katy



Trail State Park, tram tours were offered throughout September and October. The tram tours ran between different Katy Trail trailheads, offering a chance for visitors to see different stretches of the trail. Tours focused on the history of the area and the local communities. The tours were part of Missouri State Parks' Seniors to State Parks initiative with funding for the tram

provided by the Missouri Parks Association.

Echo Bluff State Park Opens

Echo Bluff State Park near Eminence opened in July. The 476-acre park is a destination that features a stunning natural setting. Located deep in the Ozarks, the park is situated in a scenic valley with towering bluffs and hillsides. The park's namesake, Echo Bluff, is the largest sheer bluff feature of the property. Just below this geologic wonder is Sinking Creek, a crystal-clear Ozarks stream that serves as the second-largest tributary to the Current River.

The park offers year-round opportunities for families and groups to experience the splendor of the Missouri Ozarks and the Current River. Comfortable, family-friendly accommodations provide the perfect basecamp for an adventure in the Ozarks.



New Wild Area Designated

The 1,168-acre Elk River Hills Wild Area in Big Sugar Creek State Park in McDonald County was designated as Missouri State Parks' 12th wild area. The first wild area designated since 1995, the Elk River Hills Wild Area possesses primeval character in its wilderness condition and inherent integrity.

State park wild areas are tracts of land, typically 1,000 acres or more in size, that are preserved for their wild qualities, natural conditions, opportunities for solitude and the unconfined recreation they offer. Modeled after the federal 1964 Wilderness Act, Missouri State Parks Wild Area Program was developed in 1977.